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Weep Not For These.

Weep not for these, whose early years,
The Lord hath gathered for His own;
We may not know what strength was theirs,
From sins foul taint their souls to keep,
Had they but lived and sorrow brought,
The measure of its sighs and tears.
Our knowledge 'gainst His love is naught—
Oh, do not weep!
Oh mother check that falling tear—
Would'st thou recall thy child again,
From heaven's fair fields to wander here,
'Mid barren wastes with tender feet?
Would'st thou those angle robes exchange,
For ought, thou seest through unknown years?
Oh rather count thy loss his gain!
Oh do not weep!
E. MURRY SIGERFOOS.
Bristol, Ind.

To the Sabbath School Workers of Western Pennsylvania.

Greeting:—As the time for our Annual Convention to be held at Berlin, Sept. 14th and 15th, is drawing near, it will be in order for all who expect to be in attendance to at once send their name to the undersigned, so they will be supplied with orders for excursion rates on the Rail Road, and also for the convenience of the committee on entertainment. The outlook at this date is quite favorable for a good attendance and we hope a profitable and instructive session. All the schools of the district ought to be represented by at least two delegates and as many more as can come; and if there is a school in the district that cannot send a delegate, it should be represented by letter, and as the expense of the convention for printing, postage &c. will be quite heavy, each school in the district ought to take up a collection for this purpose and send the same with their delegates or letter. Persons coming by rail from the West and North should leave Pittsburgh 8:35 a. m., Mt. Pleasant and Uniontown at 9:45 a. m., and Johnstown 9:30 a. m., which will land them at Berlin, 1 p. m. same day. Persons coming by way of Cumberland, should start for the convention on Monday the 13th. Berlin branch makes close connection at Garrett with all day trains on the Pgh. Div., B & O. R. R. Remember if you want an excursion ticket you must have an order. Send in your names to me without delay so you can be supplied.

J. H. KNEPPER,
Chairman Ex. Com.

Berlin, Pa.

Indian Creek, Ind.

Bro. J. M. Rittgers preached for us on the evening of August 4th, and the next day, met the church in our first quarterly council. Bro. Rittgers, upon assuming the guardianship of the church, introduced the plan of holding a business meeting at regular intervals, through the year, by dividing it into quarters, which will be every three months, and we believe the plan will work admirably, after being set in motion. At these meetings all business or difficulties arising, can be settled, and the "house kept" in better order, with less dragging and delay, and less

trouble to the presiding Elder, than any plan yet hit upon.

1. It saves confusion, as to time, or dates, in church business as every transaction can be recorded up to three months.

2. It tends to keep up a feeling of interest, and brotherly dependence one upon another, by frequent and free interchange of thoughts and ideas, in regard to that part of the work depending upon individual members.

3. By this the organization is bound and strengthened by a common interest, in working together in an equal, confidential manner, the Elder with the poorest member.

4. Those members isolated, and living under circumstances which prevent attendance at the regular Sunday service, may feel here the spirit of Brotherhood, and be brought to a remembrance of the church's love for them, and their duty to it and themselves, and by being allowed "a word" in the work, may be held from falling into an indifferent state. There may be better and stronger reasons even than these, of which I am not now able to think, but which we hope to see work in this plan. The principal business was a revision of the clerk's book, which had been neglected by us in some degree. The meeting opened by an inquiry as to the standing of the officers, beginning with the Elders, which being found without reproach by the unanimous voice of the church, the class book was then read, the absent members in good standing vouched for by those present, those whose names were read, but whose whereabouts unknown, were to be hunted up and communicated with before removing names. Those not in good standing, and absent, were to be written to by the clerk and visited, where convenient, in hopes that by some means they might be brought to a better mind and saved to the church and the cause. Reports are to be made at the next quarterly meeting and the work finished if possible.

One addition by baptism, performed by Elder George Neff, a week before Bro. Rittger's last visit, and on last Sunday, Bro. Neff was called to anoint one of our dear sisters, whose end we fear is close at hand. Sister Libbie Lahman was one of the first members of our congregation at this place, older in the church than myself, and she has been a true and faithful one, though almost always prevented from being with us in our work. She has kept the faith, and now stands on the shore of that great unknown country, awaiting God's will, with patience. What a blessed comfort, to feel, that though our faces may be turned toward the dark valley, we need "fear no evil" while faith clasps the "rod and the staff" and Jesus leads the way. I ask myself, who, oh, who, would want to look back here? Then exchange that "rod and staff" for the hardships and trials of this life. God be forever praised for the hope.

MRS. E. M. SIGERFOOS.

Bristol, Ind.

Downs, Kans.

Please publish in your paper, that the Brethren of the North Solomon church, Kans., intend to hold a love feast, on the 11th and 12th of September, at my place Downs, Kans. The Brethren have arranged and expect to have meeting commenced one week before the feast and a general invitation is extended to all the Brethren and Sisters to be with us at that time, and especially to the ministers, as there is generally but few speakers present, here in the west. We are aware that it costs a preacher some to travel. We would like to pay more than we do for traveling expenses for our ministers, but all the brethren that are acquainted with us know that we always do what we are able to do. By order of the church.

D. SHOOK, Clerk.

Johnstown, Pa.

Aug. 6th—I thought I would write a few lines for the EVANGELIST, as I love to read it and hear from the dear brethren and sisters in other places. Now to let you know, as a church, how we are getting along, well here, we have employed Bro. J. W. Smouse to preach for us here for one year. We have five regular appointments for him to preach at, beside some other appointments for preaching that he has made since he is here, and I hope that God will bless our work here in the Conemaugh Church.

I will enclose one dollar that Sister Catharine Findley gave me for the Sister's band for the College debt, and she hopes that God will help others to do likewise till you get enough to pay the debt in full.

A. STUTZMAN.

Elkhart, Ind.

DEAR EVANGELIST:—As I love so much to read good news from other congregations, I will write from this place. Although just enlisted in Christ's good cause, I feel as though I ought to do something for the Master.

Our congregation is small in number but earnest in the work. Bro. J. C. Cripe is doing our preaching at present, and is a very zealous worker for the Master. We have good and attentive congregations, and the outside interest is very good. Elias Lenard is our Elder and a good hearted, loving brother he is too. May the Lord ever keep him as such. So that we may always dwell in peace and harmony in the Lord. Bro. Ewing is coming to our place to hold song service. We also expect to hold a protracted meeting soon.

Dear brethren and sisters remember this little band in your prayers.

IDA F. STUTSMAN.

Sherwood, O.

As we have not seen any news from this part of the vineyard of the Lord I will say we are getting along nicely considering our great weakness. We were recently very much refreshed spiritually. Bro. R. F. Mallott came here July 21st, and held forth the

truth as it is in Jesus, with such power that eight souls made the good confession. So we have great reasons to rejoice in the "rock of our salvation." Brother Mallott was with us until Aug. 6th, and then went to Southern Indiana. We tried to preach in the evening of the 15th inst., had a good congregation, will preach again the 29th, at 2 p. m.

A. SHOE.

No Convention.

The call for a national convention to meet at Ashland, Ohio, during the coming November is inconsiderate immature, and unwise.

The time suggested is in the midst of the season when our churches and evangelists will be actively engaged in the work of revivals. Many of whom cannot, without loss, and will not close the meetings, to be present. The writer will be engaged in revival work at Nappanee, North Manchester, or Tiosa, Indiana, at that time and will not break the meetings to attend the convention under any circumstances. Bro. Mallott will be in Iowa at that time and will not be able to obtain the consent of his employers to leave the work mapped out for him during that month. Others will be similarly situated and the result will be that many of our most active workers will not and cannot be present. Before our National Committee sign a call for a convention to be held at Ashland, in Nov., or at any other point; or time, they should consult the pastors and evangelists of the various churches as to the proper time, the proper place, and the necessities of such a meeting. It must be born in mind that any convention without officially delegated representation will be an unofficial failure. It should not be forgotten that we are an organized and chartered body; that a convention to be legal and official must be composed of properly appointed delegates from the local churches; that these cannot be secured without local church cooperation, and that this may transpire these bodies must be systematically consulted. The simple fact that brother Holsinger, brother McFaden, brother Worst the editor, and three or four of the National committee vote for and call, a convention involves no official action; and any convention that assembles upon such authority and pretext will be an unofficial body of unauthorized representatives whose deliberations and decisions will be of paramount value with the paper upon which the report is printed. If we are to have a national convention suppose we take the legal steps to secure an authorized and officially delegated assembly. There is only one way in which it can be done. Let the National Committee correspond with each other until a unanimous decision is obtained as to the wisdom, or necessity of assembling in National convention to more fully enlarge and develop the interests of the church. This done, then inform the pastors of the local congregations, who will obtain an expression, or vote, of their charges and inform the committee of the result. If there is a general expression, as to the wisdom of or necessity for, a convention the call can be officially made, the time appointed, the delegates chosen, and the convention meet legally, and transact business officially. Any other method will result in disheartening failure and defeat to the instigators of the proposed conference.

We are not ready for another National conference at this time. Of the several churches in Iowa, Ills., Kansas, and Neb., not one out of ten will be officially represented, if the present procedure for a convention, is persisted in, to be held at Ashland in November, and not one of them will treat as official any action it may deem it its pleasure to record. Through a rather extended number of unsolicited notes, I learn of a general aversion to a convention to be held this fall. Many favor a convention, but not before the coming spring or summer. It should be held in a season when the churches are not generally engaged in

revival efforts: when evangelists are enjoying their seasons of rest, or of partial inactivity.

I am ready to consult my congregation and with it vote for a national convention when a joint note from the committee requests me to do so. But at present, under the evident unofficial character of the call and procedure, there is not very much interest taken in the matter, among us.

We also remember that our government is congregational and that outside of doctrinal acts our interests are not involved in that, in which we are not consulted. When brother Holsinger has completed his canvass for the college, as its general solicitor, makes his report to the Board of Trustees, the debt is announced as raised by subscription, we are relieved of that burden, then the western pastors and churches are ready to vote for a convention and engage in any work that will advance the general interests of the church. We have been burdened with the college debt, have it almost raised, and are willing to lift a little harder to see it out, but refuse to have general attention attracted to something else and other burdens placed upon our shoulders until this one is removed and we have a few weeks in which to rest.

Many of us fear the tendency of conventions, but are willing to go to the expense of one more when the proper times comes. But Bro. Editor, you will find that a convention in November of this year will be the slimmest and yet most conspicuous failure the church ever made.

We ought to have a convention perhaps, to more fully exchange views upon some doctrinal questions, which will be sprung upon us, but not until this can be done legally, officially, and by general representation. Please have the National committee consult the pastors, and they the churches, before you appoint the time and hold the conference.

About June 1887 will be as early as we can systematically arrange for a convention,—arrange place, delegates, programme and all others essentials.

We should be exceedingly careful, that in our efforts to assemble in national convocation, we do not transcend our individual authority, and by injudicious haste precipitate upon the brotherhood an assembly whose numbers and deliberations will be inconsiderable and unofficial.

Brother McFaden's "wheel in a wheel" is the kind of machinery some fear. We felt the centrifugal force of that modest invention when we "fell flat of our backs" at Arnolds Grove and Bismark, Kansas. Bro. Garber's double grand ecclesiastical machinery suggested, in reply to our Ohio brother two weeks ago, is neither gospel nor apostolic. The first three hundred years of the Christian church were the freest from general conventions, and he freest from divisions and strife. But we are willing to try a national convention once more, if it can be done by a general representation.

S. H. BASHOR.

B. & O. Excursions.

The following Special Excursion Rates are announced by the Baltimore & Ohio, and the Columbus & Cincinnati Midland R. R. Co's.

Ohio State Fair at Columbus, August 30th and 31st, and Sept. 1st, 2d and 3d. Rate, one fare for the round trip from all points in Ohio.

The Triennial Conclave of Knights Templar, at St. Louis, 18th to 20th. Round trip tickets will be sold, good for return passage to Sept. 28th, at one cent per mile, on short mileage, to members of the Order, their bands, servants and families. For the public, one fare the round trip.

Richland County Fair, at Mansfield, O., Sept. 28th to Oct. 1st. Rate, a fare and a third from Plymouth, Mt. Vernon, and intermediate stations. Hicksville Fair at Hicksville, O., Sept. 31st to 24th. Rate a fare and a third from Defiance, Garrett, and intermediate stations.

Knox County Fair, at Mt. Vernon, O., Oct. 5th to 8th. Rate one fare and a third from Newark, Independence and intermediate stations.

Fat Stock Show, at Chicago, Ill., Nov. 8th to 19th. Rate, a fare and a third from Milford Junction and intermediate stations.

Ohio State Fair.

The N. Y. P. & O. R. R. have made an excursion rate of one fare for the round trip to Columbus, O., and return for all persons wishing to attend the Ohio State Fair, August 30-31 and Sept. 1st, 2nd and 3rd. Tickets on sale at all coupon stations in Ohio Aug. 30 to Sept. 3 inclusive good until Sept. 4.